## *REMARKS*

Claims 1-4 and 6-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Brumbelow et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,119,104 ("Brumbelow") in view of Bowen et al., U.S. Patent

No. 6,119,104 ("Bowen"). In response, Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 15, 17, 18, 26

and 32, and has canceled claims 2, 16 and 31.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesy of a telephone interview on February 23,

2006. Applicant believes that the time was spent effectively and that significant progress was

made. During the telephone interview, Applicant's agent and the Examiner discussed claims 1,

15 and 26 and the cited references and corresponding rejections outstanding in the Office action.

Applicant's agent proposed that Applicant amend claims 1, 15 and 26 to recite aspects of

applying keys, such as associating keys with multiple sessions. Examiner asserted that doing so

would likely overcome the present rejection. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claims 1, 7, 15

and 26. Claims 3, 4, 17, 18 and 32 have been amended in form, and claims 2, 16 and 31 have

been canceled.

Independent claims 1, 15 and 26 as amended recite an application environment, computer

program product and method (respectively) for providing an integrated application environment.

Each of these claims includes an element comprising a centralized store of information or,

equivalently, a desktop bus that stores a plurality of keys and provides a stored key to an

application responsive to a pre-specified event. The application uses the key to index, and

thereby retrieve, data. The keys are associated with a plurality of sessions. Sessions can be

applied within a user environment to synchronize operations that potentially pertain to multiple

customers. This can be accomplished, for example, by establishing a unique relationship between

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sessions and customers. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 15 and 26 can be found in the specification, for example, at paragraphs [0010] through [0016] and [0037].

For example, claim 15 as amended recites:

15.     A computer program product comprising a computer-usable medium having computer-readable code... comprising:

a desktop bus module for receiving <u>keys indexing data about customers and associated with a plurality of sessions</u>, the data accessible from a remote computer system, storing the keys, and providing the keys to an application program responsive to occurrences of pre-specified events;

... (emphasis added)

Thus, claims 1, 15 and 26 each recite a plurality of keys associated with a plurality of sessions. Brumbelow discloses neither keys nor sessions, and thus Brumbelow neither teaches nor suggests the claimed invention.

Bowen does not remedy the shortcomings of Brumbelow. Bowen discloses an indexing agent that accesses a structured database and produces an index that associates keywords with resource locators. After a user provides a keyword, the index is used to obtain an associated resource locator that in turn is used to retrieve data from the structured database (Bowen, Abstract). However, Bowen also fails to disclose sessions or equivalent functionality. For example, Bowen does not teach or suggest the use of sessions to synchronize operations pertaining to multiple customers by establishing unique relationships between sessions and customers. Furthermore, Bowen fails to disclose a desktop bus module (or equivalent functionality) for receiving keys indexing data about customers and associated with a plurality of sessions. Thus, Bowen neither teaches nor suggests the claimed invention.

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In sum, the combination of Brumbelow and Bowen fails to teach or suggest certain claimed features, such as keys indexing data about customers and associated with a plurality of sessions. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that a person of ordinary skill in the art, considering the teachings of Brumbelow and Bowen, would not find the claimed invention obvious.

Dependent claims 7, 9, 21, 22, 30, and 32 recite further details of the pre-specified event, and Applicant respectfully submits that the features of these claims are not found in Brumbelow or Bowen. Further, claims 13 and 23 recite using color to indicate which of a plurality of sessions identified by a customer key is active. Neither Brumbelow nor Bowen discloses using color as claimed, and Applicant submits that the claimed features would not be obvious to a person of ordinary skill. Applicant submits that the dependent claims not specifically mentioned above are patentable at least due to the features of their respective base claims.
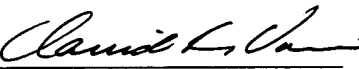
In summary, based on the above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 3-4, 6-15, 17-30 and 32-33 are patentably distinguishable over Brumbelow and Bowen, and requests that this application be passed to issue. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned in order to advance the prosecution of this application.

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## *Conclusion*

Applicant believes that all of the stated grounds of rejection set forth by the Examiner in the Office Action have been properly accommodated or addressed. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and withdraw them. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative if it is felt that an interview might be useful for any reason.

Respectfully submitted
Dennis J. Nasrawi

Date: *MARCH 9, 2006*

By: *[signature]*

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